This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent, a binder and an organic solvent.

2. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 1, comprising a diluent.

3. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 2 wherein the diluent is butylcarbitol.

4. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders.

5. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has etching activity for antireflection layers of solar cells.

6. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers and/or nitride layers of Si.

7. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent is NH_4HF_2 or NH_4F.

8. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, wherein the metal powder is one or more powder selected from the group consisting of Ag-coated Ni powder, Cu powder,.Ag powder, Au powder and Pd powder.

9. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the binder contains a thermosetting resin.

10. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 9, wherein the thermosetting resin is an epoxy resin and/or phenol resin.

11. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is polyhydric alcohol or its mixture.

12. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 11, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin and/or ethylene glycol.

13. (Original) A solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the solar cell is fabricated by coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching activity for antireflection layers, a binder and an organic solvent, on the antireflection

layer in a desired electrode shape.

14. (Original) An electric circuit formed by coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder and an organic solvent, on a substrate in a desired pattern.

15. (Original) A method of fabricating a solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the method comprises coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching activity for antireflection layers, a binder and an organic solvent, on the antireflection layer in a desired electrode shape.

16. (Original) A method of forming electric circuits, which comprises coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder and an organic solvent, on a substrate in a desired pattern.